

Fight for...

PAY

JOBS

PENSIONS

UNIONS

**STOP THE CUTS  
SUPPORT THE PENSION STRIKES  
BUILD SOLIDARITY**

*Nottinghamshire, Mansfield and Nottingham Trades Council*

With...

SOLIDARITY

STRIKE

UNIONS

UNITY



Nottinghamshire

News, campaigns, action and solidarity | Issue 3 | Summer 2011

# Trade Union NEWS

**This government wants to smash the welfare state, cut pensions and attack your pay  
Unite and fight the Tory attacks!**

Teachers, lecturers and civil servants in the NUT, ATL, UCU and PCS have been forced to take strike action on 30th June. Those who forced them—Cameron, Clegg and the Tory/Lib Dem government—are determined to smash the welfare state, cut public sector pensions and attack pay.

This strike action is not happening because union members and their families are greedy; pensions are a vital part of their pay! These union members have chosen to work in the public sector because they believe in providing good public services for all. Taking strike action is never an easy decision in such circumstances.

The attacks on the public sector are part of a much bigger agenda. The government wants to privatise the NHS, cut spending on schools and services, price working class children out of colleges and university, cut benefits to those in need and see unemployment

soar. In essence, they want to attack every service that we value and hold dear.

Yet none of this is necessary. The richest 1000 people in Britain have seen their wealth increase by £130 billion in the last two years to a staggering £396

billion. This stomach churning level of wealth shows that the rich are getting richer on the backs of suffering.

Those unions taking action are standing up for pensions and public services for all. It looks likely that they will be joined in the autumn by Unison, Unite



and others. The struggle against this government is high stakes. If we lose the immediate future looks bleak.

**Unity is strength and together we will win!**

## Escalate this action - fight to win

**Nottinghamshire, Mansfield and Nottingham Trades Council unanimously agreed to support calls for an escalation of the June 30th strikes.**

*This means working to convince as many trade unions as possible to join the action come the autumn. It also means making sure that those trade unions striking in the summer then go on to strike again. We can only win by increasing, broadening and intensifying the pressure. Our best weapon for doing this is the strike!*

*The Trades Council supported motion will be put to the strike meeting at the Albert Hall on June 30th. It reads:*

"We the assembled ... congratulate the union executives for balloting for industrial action over pensions. Today must be seen as only the beginning of an ongoing campaign of action.

We urge union leaderships to announce plans to escalate the industrial action over pensions ... [and] therefore call on our respective National Executive Committees in consultation with local union organisations to draw up plans for a variety of further actions ... beginning with a timetable for further strikes in the Autumn, both nationally and regionally based.

We further call on our National

Executives to start urgent talks with other unions facing job cuts and attacks on pay, pensions and conditions but who have not so far balloted for action. In such talks the Unions should make the case for our sister unions balloting for strike action against these attacks as a matter of urgency.

Finally, we believe it is vital that rank and file union members are involved in this dispute and we call on the unions taking action today to establish strike committees both within and between unions"

**A full version of the motion will be available at the Albery Hall.**

# SOLIDARITY



The UCU Local Association at Nottingham University fully supports its colleagues in Further Education and its sister unions NUT, ATL and PCS in their struggle against cuts to their pension systems as well as general cuts to the public sector.

Along with Nottingham Students against Cuts and Fees, we are concerned not least at the increase in market values in Higher Education and at the indefensible rise in student fees, which will rule out HE as an option for thousands of potential students.



## Mansfield

Mansfield Save Our Services Campaign Supports Unions!

Mansfield Save Our Services was set up to unite and coordinate opposition to cuts in public services in the Mansfield area. We organised a demonstration in Mansfield in February that was supported

by both service users and service workers from a range of unions. We would like to take this opportunity to express our support of the current campaign by unions to defend decent pensions, jobs and conditions.

This is a fight that affects us all. We have been clear from the start that a key strategy of the Government and Councils that wish to drive through cuts would be to try and divide and rule - setting public sector against private, service workers against service users and manual workers against clerical. We refuse to be divided. We stand united with all workers, students, pupils and service users fighting this vicious Coalition Government and its fellow-travellers in local government.

The bankers are still getting their bonuses and the richest and most powerful in society have a clear agenda of offloading all the costs of their failure onto the poorest and sucking up all the power and wealth that the crisis gives them the opportunity to seize.

We extend a warm invitation to all fair minded workers and service users in the Mansfield area to join our campaign and build the resistance locally.



## Nottingham Disabled Peoples Movement

Nottingham Disabled Peoples Movement would like to show solidarity with and complete support for the Trades Council's efforts to fight the cuts.

We also wish to show solidarity on the demonstration on the 30th.



## DWP Benefit Office Closures - PCS members support the action on 30th June

The action on the 30th June will be supported by PCS members throughout the country. PCS has called the action in defence of pensions, pay and jobs. Members in the benefit offices in Mansfield and Sutton-in Ashfield are facing attacks from the government on all three fronts.

It has been over 6 weeks now since DWP announced that 22 offices are to close within 12 months. Locally this affects 180 staff. This is not only bad news for the staff, but also for local

businesses as buying power will at best be moved elsewhere and people claiming the benefits processes at these offices as there will be less staff to process claims.

The reasons given for closure is that the offices have less than 200 staff and are high cost. DWP has not explained the significance of the 200 figure or explained how they have calculated the cost. They also claim that there are re-deployment opportunities at DWP contact centres at Annesley and Derby. How will the cost of transferring staff and paying them travel costs and travel time on top of the existing costs of their new offices compare to the cost of keeping Mansfield and Sutton open? PCS members have many questions that DWP management have yet to answer.

The branch committee together with PCS regional and national committees will continue to campaign against the closures. Many members have written to their MPs and a lobby of MPs is planned.

The focus at the moment, however, has to be on the 30th June. PCS members are aware that our fight will be similar to others throughout the public sector. The joint action gives us an opportunity to stand as one with other branches of PCS, NUT, UCU and ATL against the government's ideological cuts in the public sector.

Rob Higginson  
Branch Organiser, PCS DWP North Nottinghamshire



## PATIENTS, NOT PROFITS!

Our National Health Service is under vicious attack from the Coalition Government. For decades people in Britain fought to establish a universal health care system, the NHS, which was born on 5th. July, 1948. Now Health Minister Andrew Lansley's Health and Social Care Bill aims to destroy OUR NHS.

**SPENDING CUTS:** At the last General Election David Cameron said he would protect spending on the NHS from cuts. Now he wants £20 billion cut from the NHS budget by 2014.

**PRIVATISATION:** The Government want most NHS patient care provided by private, profit-making companies. This will not mean better care for patients but huge profits for owners of private firms.

**STAFF CONDITIONS:** Already the pay and conditions of medical staff are deteriorating as they are pushed out of NHS employment into private companies. The Government aims to carry further this attack on our medical carers.

Only the most militant fightback against the Government and politicians will defeat this rotten attack on OUR National Health service.

# Cut the Bill!

## SAVE OUR NHS DAY OF ACTION

Rally at Speakers' Corner, Old Market Square, Nottingham at 12.00 on Saturday, 9th. July

We need to step up the pressure on the Coalition Government to stop them privatising our National Health Service. Despite their "listening" exercise, they are still determined to put profits before patients. *Don't be fooled by cosmetic changes.* We must say "NO!"

Come along to help save our NHS. Tell people to attend. Bring banners, placards, flags, love and rage. Wear NHS uniforms. Followed by multiple activities around the city.

For other Notts SOS activities see our website and get involved.

## NOTTS SAVE OUR SERVICES

Website: [www.nottssos.org.uk](http://www.nottssos.org.uk)  
Contact: [nottssos@gmail.com](mailto:nottssos@gmail.com)  
Twitter: @NottsSOS



## Our NHS is in mortal danger...

from dismemberment, privatisation and conflicts of interest. Our NHS isn't broke. So we don't need to fix it. It has higher satisfaction levels and better out-comes than inefficient and unfair systems like the USA.

At a time of austerity, to spend £1.7 billion on re-structuring the NHS and replacing it by an untried system seems the height of folly.

Join us to celebrate our NHS. Come to its 63rd Birthday Party on Tuesday 5th July at Bassetlaw Hospital, 11.00 am—2.30 pm. Meet near Blyth Road bus stop. Bring a balloon!

## Notts Trades Council T-Shirts

£5 — Large Sizes  
Contact Notts TUC to place your order!

الاتضمام الى النقابات العالمية

## Notts Trade Union News

Editor: Tom Unterrainer, Nottingham NUT  
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(Arabic writing reads "Join a")